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Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

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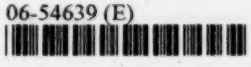

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Hachani** (Tunisia) said that there was no shortage of key instruments to guide the international community in the urgent task of implementing a global partnership for development. The full implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/265, entitled "Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals", would be crucial to building that partnership. The resolution, adopted following difficult negotiations, and a potentially decisive step in the process of attaining development objectives, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, called for balancing political and security concerns with economic and social challenges. As poverty and insecurity were clearly the root causes of instability and tension, peace and development must be pursued in tandem.

2. In that connection, it was also imperative to provide the Economic and Social Council with the additional resources it required to enable it to carry out its mandates, including the new ones entrusted to it in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). To that end, his delegation hoped that the negotiations on strengthening the Council would resume and be completed soon so that the Council would be in a position to take the wishes of the General Assembly into account when planning its future activities.

3. A number of prerequisites must be met in order to create a genuine global partnership for development. For example, the trade negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) should resume and be guided by the need for a more balanced and open multilateral trading system. In that connection, he underscored the commitment in the World Summit Outcome to an effective and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and to the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme.

4. Assistance should be given to debtor developing countries to enable them to achieve manageable and sustainable levels of debt, for example, by converting some of their debt into development projects. The international community was in a position to identify debt alleviation mechanisms that would not undermine the stability of international financial institutions or the financial capacity of the developed countries.

5. An increase in ODA was another prerequisite for a true global partnership for development. ODA financed economic and human development as well as macroeconomic and structural reforms that were critical for growth, particularly in the poorest developing countries.

6. A final prerequisite was support for good governance at the national and international levels alike. The developing countries should be given a greater voice in elaborating, managing and monitoring major economic decisions. A selective approach to those actions would be counterproductive.

7. His delegation considered the implementation of a global partnership for development to be the major focus of the current session of the General Assembly and the Second Committee. The results of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 were therefore of particular importance to both the General Assembly and the Committee. African countries required increased and more sustained assistance in respect of the issues dealt with at those recent meetings.

8. Given their considerable degree of integration in commercial and financial markets, middle-income countries continued to face special needs and require support from the international community. It was therefore important to implement the relevant provisions of the World Summit Outcome. His delegation welcomed the fact that the concerns of middle-income countries had been discussed at the 2006 Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

9. It was also essential to address the digital divide, which was the most endemic expression of poverty. In that connection, implementation of the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society — the second phase of which had been held in Tunis in November 2005 — should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences. His delegation was pleased that

the Economic and Social Council had already begun to address the issue with the assistance of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He also welcomed the recent launch by the Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, which would enable all stakeholders to participate in implementing the outputs of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society.

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/209, had proclaimed 20 December of each year International Human Solidarity Day. He urged delegations to participate actively in its first official observance, and which he hoped would be organized in close coordination with the Second Committee.

11. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) said that constructive cooperation between developing and developed countries was required at the current session of the General Assembly in order to restore confidence in North-South relations and ensure the balanced implementation of the development commitments of the World Summit Outcome. General Assembly resolution 60/265 did not meet the aspirations of the developing countries in that regard. It was therefore necessary to set in motion new mechanisms to follow up the commitments undertaken in the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences; increase the policy space available to developing countries to balance their national policies with their international commitments; and promote the role of the United Nations in various development spheres, particularly in international financial institutions.

12. Effective efforts were also needed to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the draft resolution to strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council, with a view to increasing the resources available to the Council and strengthening its capacity to carry out its mandates, including its new mandates, as efficiently as possible.

13. The Secretary-General's report on system-wide coherence should include proposals to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in the field of development. The proposals should confirm the importance of continuity and predictability in financing the system's funds and programmes at the national level, with a view to meeting the priorities of recipient countries and with due respect for the principle of national ownership. Proposals on environmental issues should not be confined to the operational activities of the United Nations system; rather, they should envision ways of integrating national, regional and international initiatives to achieve sustainable development and preserve natural resources for future generations.

14. The need to support the development efforts of middle-income countries through technical assistance and new bilateral, regional and international partnerships had gained increasing significance in the light of the emphasis placed by the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development on the importance of financial resources as the primary factor in effective partnerships for development. As a middle-income country, Egypt attached particular importance to the commitment by developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA, and to the development mandate of the Doha Round. Increasing the voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions and enhancing the access of middle-income countries to soft loans and credit facilities from international and regional financial institutions would also be crucial.

15. As a developing country at the crossroads between East and West, his country attached considerable importance to issues relating to international migration and development. It had been an active participant in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and looked forward to the adoption of practical measures that addressed the rights of migrants, facilitated remittance transfers and reduced their cost and dealt with the negative consequences of the brain drain in developing countries. The establishment of a new consultative forum on migration and development would be a positive step. Such a forum should complement, and not be a substitute for activities of the United Nations system in the field of migration and development.

16. At the recent High-level Meeting on the Least Developed Countries, Egypt had underscored its commitment to supporting and assisting those countries at the bilateral, regional and international levels and the importance of enhancing efforts to enable them to achieve sustainable development through their rapid integration into the world economy.

17. His delegation was concerned at the suspension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which jeopardized the aspirations of the developing

countries for a more just multilateral trading system and undermined their right to development. The collective efforts of all parties were essential in order to address the controversial issues of agricultural subsidies, market access for non-agricultural commodities, and preferential treatment.

18. He stressed the importance of providing sufficient international development assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of Africa. Such assistance should be delivered through African channels, in particular through the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). His country was a NEPAD coordinator for the agriculture and market access sectors.

19. Although his delegation welcomed the many initiatives introduced to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, it believed that additional resources were needed and that more attention should be directed to the debt problems of middle-income countries.

20. The three components of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection, should be treated as mutually reinforcing pillars. His country continued to make every effort to ensure environmental protection and preservation within the framework of its obligations under the relevant international agreements, in particular those pertaining to climate change, Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Approaches that placed narrow self-interest ahead of the common good, which had surfaced in connection with the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, were irresponsible and jeopardized the future of mankind.

21. His delegation urged the international community to continue to address the issue of desertification, which undermined the development potential of the developing world. Efforts should also be directed at projects to develop new and renewable energy resources in developing countries, as such projects helped preserve the environment.

22. With reference to agenda item 40, permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, he expressed his delegation's deep concern regarding the continued deterioration of the economic, social and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation and the policies of closure.

23. His delegation looked forward to enhanced cooperation between developed countries and developing countries, and among developing countries, on matters relating to information and communication technology in order to promote capacity-building in new technologies and narrow the digital divide through transfers of new technology. Additional regional and international meetings with development partners and stakeholders should be convened to that end.

24. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that while the theme of the general debate for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, "Implementing a global partnership for development", had doubtless been inspired by a growing recognition of the inevitable need for collaborative effort in a globalized world, there had been a manifest lack of progress in implementing an effective global partnership for development. Inequality remained entrenched at all levels and in all regions, posing a significant threat to global prospects for peace and prosperity. Although it was true that the performance of developing countries as a group, and of some developing countries in particular, had shown improvement, not only did current conditions exhibit great volatility and unevenness, but inequality continued to increase even in countries and regions with relatively high levels of growth.

25. A global partnership for development was thus more necessary than ever. Success in forging such a partnership was of particular concern to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, which remained the most inequitable region in the world, despite consistent advances in recent years. Figures from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) indicated that some 222 million people in the region were living in poverty, 90 per cent of them in middle-income countries. The World Bank *Global Monitoring Report 2005* pointed up the important role that development aid played in such countries in supporting efforts to tackle poverty, as well as catalysing reforms and helping to counter negative shocks.

26. The recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had highlighted the need for comprehensive treatment of migration issues. The Rio Group supported the creation of a global forum, as proposed by the Secretary-General, as a means of continuing the debate begun during the High-level Dialogue and ensuring sustained attention to and holistic treatment of migration by the Governments of the world. The special role of remittances — which should not be linked to official development assistance — also deserved particular attention from the international community, as did the "brain drain".

27. Trade could be a positive and dynamic force for promoting development and reducing poverty, thereby contributing to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The successful conclusion of the Doha Round could generate additional resources for development. The Rio Group believed that the developed countries bore a special responsibility to ensure its success and urged those countries to honour their commitments to implement agreed reforms and to adopt a constructive approach that would spur progress in eliminating the grave imbalances and injustices of the international trading system.

28. The Rio Group was convinced that greater efforts must be made to overcome the problems impeding the achievement of a true global partnership for development. The ever-widening gap between promises and action must be addressed in order to prevent countries and regions from slipping further behind in their quest to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Leaders of the Rio Group countries had put forward various proposals in that regard, including the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative (Brazil, Chile and other countries), the New Global Human Order (Guyana) and the International Humanitarian Fund (Venezuela). The Rio Group strongly supported the identification, promotion and implementation of innovative sources of financing for development, such as the recently launched International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID), created in the context of the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative. UNITAID would provide financial resources for the acquisition of drugs to treat the three most serious diseases affecting people in developing countries: HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

29. The Rio Group countries firmly believed that each country bore primary responsibility for its own development, but national efforts would be of little avail without an enabling international economic environment that was more "development-friendly". For that reason, the reform of the international financial architecture was of paramount importance. While the proposed package of International Monetary Fund reforms was welcome, it did not adequately address the issue of underrepresentation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions.

30. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan) said that many of the commitments set out in the 2005 World Summit Outcome had yet to be fulfilled and stressed the importance of completing that unfinished business, particularly with regard to the Millennium Development Goals and United Nations system reform. He urged the Committee to accelerate its discussion on those two challenges.

31. Human security was a key to reforming the United Nations system in order to enable it to respond more effectively to the needs of people in developing countries. The objective of human security was to protect individuals from various threats, strengthen their capacity to cope with adversity by themselves, and create an enabling environment in which they could demonstrate that increased capacity. He invited interested Member States to join his delegation in considering the implications of human security for the items on the Committee's agenda.

32. One area on which his delegation planned to focus in the coming months was water and sanitation. The international community had pledged to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. Although limited success had been achieved with respect to water, progress with respect to sanitation was faltering. As the issue of water and sanitation underpinned poverty reduction, child survival, disease control, education, and gender equality — in other words, virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, provision of sanitation would be an effective starting point for socio-economic development. His delegation and other interested delegations planned to introduce a draft resolution in support of the recommendation by the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation earlier in 2006 that the United Nations should declare an "International Year of Sanitation" to help raise awareness and mobilize human and financial resources.

33. While acknowledging the major intellectual contributions the United Nations University (UNU) had made to the international community in the 30 years since its establishment, he said that the time was ripe for a review of the University's role and an external evaluation of its output and contributions. To enhance its function and status, UNU must have a clear grasp of the expectations other United Nations bodies had of it, strive to engage in more practical and timely research, better utilize the outcomes of that research and improve its public relations activities. His delegation hoped that the University would seize the opportunity for renewal that the resolution to be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly would offer.

34. **Mr. Cho** Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that, despite recent increases and the timetables established by many developed countries for meeting ODA targets, the projected level of ODA over the coming five years would still fall short of developing countries' requirements. The situation called for increased support and faithful delivery.

35. His Government had been honouring its pledges. It would double its ODA by 2009 and triple it by 2015. As part of that action, it would substantially increase its development assistance to Africa under its Initiative for Africa's Development. While ODA remained an essential component of development assistance, innovative sources of financing, such as air-ticket solidarity, ought to be explored. Hence the recent launch of UNITAID was to be welcomed; his Government was adopting legislation to enable it to make financial contributions to the Facility. Nevertheless, such innovative programmes should be regarded as a supplement, not a substitute, for ODA.

36. Development aid alone would not ensure long-term sustainable development. Debt relief and trade were also vital to development. Trade was of overriding importance, since its promotion offered larger and more permanent benefits to developing countries in terms of self-reliance. The early resumption and completion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) deserved strong support, as the round was aimed at creating a freer multilateral trading system while paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. In order to restart the negotiations, new ideas must be considered and every party, especially the key players, would need to compromise.

37. His Government supported Aid for Trade and would expand duty-free and quota-free access to his country's markets for the exports of the least developed countries. It would also increase its contribution to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and expand its training programmes covering WTO rules and regulations. Sustainable development would not be possible until the least developed countries were fully integrated into the global economy. In that connection, the High-level Meeting on the Least Developed Countries had provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for the development of the least developed countries, few of which would meet the targets of the Programme of Action if current trends persisted. Countries must therefore redouble their efforts to honour their respective commitments under the Programme; closer cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners was imperative.

38. Effective implementation of the Doha Development Agenda would not be possible unless the crucial role played by women in all social and economic areas was fully recognized. The empowerment of women and the mainstreaming of gender perspective into policymaking and policy implementation should therefore be a central feature of measures to bring about social progress and economic development. He called for closer cooperation among States with a view to realizing the development potential of international migration was a multidimensional, worldwide phenomenon reflecting many aspects of globalization. Comprehensive and coherent migration policies that took into account the specific situation of each country were needed to maximize the benefits of migration and contain the social disruption it caused. The Global Migration Group should foster coordination, cooperation and coherence among international organizations working in the field of migration and development.

39. Developing countries must play a greater role in reforming the governance structure of international financial institutions. The ad hoc increase in the quotas of the four most underrepresented economies at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was a step in the right direction, but many countries' quotas must still be readjusted to reflect their changing economic weight.

To that end, a new quota formula should be established on a consensual basis. Similar steps should be taken at the World Bank.

40. Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/61/258), he stressed the need to accelerate efforts to ensure sustainable development, which was a key factor in achieving other Millennium Development Goals such as the eradication of poverty. It was therefore to be hoped that the report of the United Nations High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment would propose specific schemes and strategies, and that the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would serve as a platform for consolidated policy options paving the way for substantial improvements in sustainable development approaches. It would also be desirable for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to produce substantive results and call for prompt and effective action. It was to be hoped that the Committee would help to broaden the consensus and to draw up action plans for the implementation of commitments undertaken at the 2005 World Summit.

41. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that the collapse of the Doha Round of trade negotiations had been a huge shock for developing countries. A wide range of other adverse trends might also cast a shadow over future growth prospects for the world economy and were likely to affect least developed countries disproportionately. The global economic environment was not conducive to meeting the ambitious goals set at the 2005 World Summit, but a number of measures might break the deadlock.

42. First, it was necessary to reverse the heavy bias of the current trading system against the developing countries and to resume the Doha negotiations immediately. Duty-free and quota-free access to the industrialized countries' markets for the exports of the least developed countries should be granted even before agreement was reached on other issues.

43. Secondly, the total foreign exchange reserves held by the developing countries was nearly 15 times larger than the total development assistance they received. While those reserves sat idle and yielded very low interest, developing countries were often forced to borrow at very high interest rates in order to finance their development. That situation was unfair; the United Nations must lead an international drive to reform the global reserve system and to make arrangements for the least developed countries to borrow at zero interest rates.

44. Thirdly, although the multilateral debt reduction achieved through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) was welcome, the latter should be extended to all the least developed countries and all their outstanding debts must be written off immediately. Grant-based development assistance would avert the recurrence of unsustainable debts.

45. Fourthly, since ODA to the least developed countries was decreasing in real terms, developed countries must fulfil their commitment of giving 0.7 per cent of their GNP as ODA to developing countries and 0.2 per cent to the least developed countries. Aid should be delivered more efficiently and predictably without political conditionality. The distribution of ODA should be rational and equitable among the recipient countries and its flow should be aligned with countries' own development strategies. The full implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was also important.

46. Fifthly, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the least developed countries should be channelled into productive investment that would generate employment and contribute to product diversification. It might also help to bridge the widening divide between the infrastructure of the least developed and developing countries and that of member States of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation. Sixthly, it was necessary to step up efforts to identify and eliminate the key supply-side constraints preventing the private sectors of the least developed countries from becoming globally competitive. It was time that the international community took steps to fully activate Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, not only in order to remove capacity constraints, but also to address the problems of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers restricting the least developed countries' exports to developed countries.

47. Seventhly, although the international community should assist developing countries to narrow the enormous gap between the supply and demand for microcredit, a viable alternative to traditional sources of financing to which the poor often had no access. Eighthly, the decision-making process of the international financial institutions must be democratized. While the ad hoc increase in the quotas for four countries was welcome, the current package of reforms was not adequate to address the special circumstances of low-income countries. A substantial increase in basic votes was necessary and the new quota formula should be weighted in favour of the least developed countries, whose voices must be heard in the Bretton Woods institutions.

48. Ninthly, particular attention should be devoted to the threat of national disasters which often undermined development efforts. Reducing the risk of disasters was a global concern, as their impact in one region adversely affected others. The United Nations must gear its efforts to introducing weather insurance and weather derivatives in order to manage the risks of natural disasters. Lastly, the free movement of service providers might well exceed the benefits of completely liberalized trade in goods. Expeditious measures to liberalize the market for service providers under Mode 4 would also make it easier to tackle the challenges of the smuggling and trafficking in persons. Despite world leaders' promises to lift the most indigent segment of society out of the poverty trap, very poor people still did not benefit directly from migration. It was therefore to be hoped that the proposed platform for migration would focus primarily on the most critical aspects of the issue.

49. An effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism at the United Nations was crucial for reaching the time-bound goals set at the Millennium Summit. The Committee should play a key role in that regard.

50. **Mr. Chandrappan** (India), noting the findings of the report on the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2006 and of the World Economic and Social Survey 2006, said that the mobilization of additional financial resources to assist developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals was still a major challenge, while the impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations was a cause for concern. Only a small fraction of the nominal increase in ODA in 2005 had actually represented a flow of additional finance to the neediest countries. The Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved unless the target of setting aside 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA was met by 2015. Innovative financing, deeper debt relief and enhanced market access were also required. His Government supported efforts to help low-income countries, including those in Africa, where the burden of debt was preventing them from reaching the Millennium Development Goals. As the proposals for innovative sources of financing matured, it would be vital to strengthen existing mechanisms for tracking ODA flows to make them more robust and efficient. It would also be necessary to consider establishing new mechanisms to monitor, review and follow up the fulfilment of all commitments in line with General Assembly resolution 60/265 on Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

51. Trade could stimulate growth. For that reason, the realization of the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda, the July Framework Agreement and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration was imperative. At the same time, permission for developing countries to commit themselves to making proportionately lower overall tariff reductions and the introduction of operable and effective development instruments for the Special Products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism were essential in order to ensure to ensure food security and the rural development needs of those countries. If the developed countries did not eliminate trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies for agricultural products and if the developing countries did not liberalize imports of non-agricultural goods, domestic demand would be constrained and industrial recession would ensue. The overarching principle of special and differential treatment therefore remained a categorical imperative. Considerable political will would have to be demonstrated if the negotiations were to be saved.

52. Economic growth and its collapse had tended to occur in many countries at the same time. It was unlikely that domestic factors alone could explain such a pattern. Poverty and conflicts were not simply a legacy of the colonial past, but epiphenomena of the policies followed by the international financial institutions. It was no coincidence that several countries had rejected the prescriptions of the Bretton Woods institutions. Governance at the international

level was as important as governance at the domestic level. The Bretton Woods institutions must not depart from their mission of freeing the world from poverty; their policies must remain development-oriented. Addressing the democratic deficit in the governance structure of those institutions was therefore a necessity. The United Nations should encourage further steps to initiate the second stage of quota reform at the International Monetary Fund, which would lead to an increase in the quota for all underrepresented countries.

53. The proposal concerning the intensification of the global development partnership with Africa was welcome. His Government, which had an extensive bilateral programme of economic and technological cooperation with Africa, supported the idea of making greater efforts through the United Nations system to assist the endeavours of African countries and to address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries.

54. Environmental protection remained a major challenge for developing countries and, for that reason, practical steps were needed to provide additional resources and ensure the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms to developing countries.

55. The Committee's deliberations should make it possible to identify areas of cooperative action promoting the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda in 2006.

56. **Mr. Mota Sardenberg** (Brazil) said that the Committee should focus special attention on migration, taking a comprehensive approach that covered not only the economic, political and social implications of the issue but also its human rights dimension. No country could be exempt from responsibility before the international community for violations of migrants' human rights. His delegation looked forward to the creation of the global consultative forum on migration and development proposed by the Secretary-General as a means of promoting more organized international discussion on the issue.

57. Brazil had endorsed the Millennium Declaration, not as a vague statement of intentions but as a concrete covenant of mutual support leading to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty alleviation. The outlook for achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals was not bright, however and would not improve until the tripartite partnership of developing countries, developed countries and international financial institutions, established at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, became fully effective. The preparatory discussions for the follow-up international conference on financing for development would afford an opportunity to evaluate and reinforce the tripartite arrangement. In his delegation's opinion, responsibility for implementation of the Monterrey Consensus had been unevenly divided among Member States and the international financial institutions. The developing countries had been doing their utmost in order to attract investment and fuel growth, particularly by taking harsh measures to achieve economic stability; the international financial institutions must now strengthen their role in the partnership. Some encouraging progress had occurred with regard to country focus and ownership, results-oriented operations, transparency and accountability, but much remained to be done to ensure better coherence and coordination in the activities of those institutions.

58. The developed countries, too, had fallen short of the Monterrey vision. In particular, they had failed to step up their efforts in three policy areas: prevention of global macroeconomic volatility, trade and aid. The fiscal, monetary and financial policies of developed countries should foster robust growth in the world economy, but for that to occur there must be adequate coordination of macroeconomic policies with other developed countries, action to ensure the soundness of their financial systems and creation of a climate conducive to global economic growth.

59. The removal of trade barriers to exports from developing countries was an integral element in the fight against poverty. As set forth in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, market access was essential for both low- and middle-income countries. The elimination or reduction of international trade distortions and the establishment of a truly multilateral rules-based trading system, particularly for agricultural products, would provide a substantial boost to the development of the agricultural sector in developing countries, which would, in turn, help raise the living standards of their populations, a large segment of which were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. In that connection, Brazil was deeply concerned over the impasse that had

led to the suspension of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and called on the key players in those negotiations to agree to undertake substantial cuts in the domestic support measures applied to their agricultural production, thus removing the main stumbling block for resumption of the talks.

60. Progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would be accelerated when the donor community translated its commitments into actual outlays, thus moving closer to the official development assistance target set in the Monterrey Consensus. His delegation called on the developed countries to take decisive and immediate action to increase aid flows. At the same time, aid modalities should be adjusted to make more effective use of resources. That could be accomplished through more coordinated and transparent dialogue among donors, who often acted in isolation thus missing opportunities for synergy in projects involving the same recipient country. Moreover, aid had to be provided in modalities and amounts that were consistent with the absorptive capacity of recipient countries.

61. As aid flows and debt sustainability were closely linked, debt cancellation as envisaged under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative should not affect the stability and predictability of ODA flows, particularly those aimed at financing recurrent expenses. The new Multilateral Debt Reduction Initiative should supplement current flows and refrain from imposing conditionalities other than those already included in the HIPC Initiative.

62. Innovative financing modalities were needed to meet the need for increased and more stable and predictable aid. Brazil had been actively pursuing the development of such modalities at the national level, starting with the launching of its Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative in January 2004. The time had come for the international donor community to join in the effort to identify operationally and financially viable instruments to complement existing aid flows. A first step in that direction had been the launching of the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID). Thus far, 18 countries had joined in that innovative, ambitious initiative, which would help developing countries to obtain urgently needed diagnostic kits and drugs at affordable prices. His delegation urged other partners to do likewise.

63. Brazil had high expectations for the discussions on improving the United Nations operational system for development, which would lead to enhanced coordination among agencies, particularly at country level. His delegation was committed to contributing constructively to the Committee's discussions on that issue; it was especially interested in the promotion of South-South cooperation as a major strategy for development. The wide array of issues on the Committee's agenda reflected multiple angles of a single, basic goal: sustainable development and its three indivisible and mutually reinforcing pillars, economic development, social development and environmental development. He invited other delegations to bear that in mind as a backdrop to the Committee's discussions.

64. **Mr. Chabar** (Morocco) noted that the Committee's deliberations were taking place in the wake of three important international events. The first had been the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, at which Member States had expressed broad support for the Secretary-General's proposal to create a global consultative forum for ongoing discussion of the issue. The Committee should take concrete action, in its discussion of agenda item 55 (b), "International migration and development", to make that proposal a reality.

65. The second international gathering had been the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, which had adopted the Cotonou Ministerial Declaration, reaffirming support for the Programme of Action, and the Cotonou Strategy. The international community, especially the developed countries, had a responsibility to promote cooperation with the least developed countries to assist them in achieving their development objectives and priorities. His country was committed to strengthening its relations with the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, through cooperation projects aimed at furthering human development and through mechanisms for promoting trade and investment. Morocco was also committed to ensuring duty- and quota-free market access for exports from African LDCs.

66. The third event had been the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,

at which several important decisions had been taken, notably concerning a package of reforms aimed at ensuring better representation of countries of the South in those institutions. A fourth event which bore mentioning was the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, which, regrettably, had been suspended. The failure to reach agreement raised the spectre of escalating protectionism, which would undoubtedly have a disproportionate impact on exports of developing countries. All countries had a duty to redouble their efforts to settle their differences and resume the negotiations.

67. United Nations reform would continue to be discussed during the current session of the General Assembly. Of particular interest to the Second Committee would be the coherence of United Nations activities with regard to the environment, development and humanitarian assistance. His delegation looked forward to receiving the report of the panel established by the Secretary-General to examine that matter. While the reform process would afford an opportunity to adapt the activities of United Nations agencies to the needs and priorities of countries, it should not result in any weakening of the mandate of some agencies, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A second issue of concern to the Committee would be the development of a sound institutional framework for the environmental activities of the United Nations. Morocco supported the French proposal to transform the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into a United Nations Environment Organization as a means of facilitating joint action to address environmental challenges.

68. Innovative financing for development mechanisms should continue to be sought. His delegation welcomed the launching of UNITAID, which would doubtless save many lives, especially in Africa, the region most affected by disease and poverty. His delegation also welcomed the offer by Qatar to host the follow-up international conference on financing for development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and encouraged Member States to come to an agreement on the arrangements for the conference.

69. **Mr. Rapota** (Eurasian Economic Community) said that the Eurasian Economic Community had been in existence for six years. In 2006 it had merged with the Central Asian Cooperation Organization and had admitted the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Eurasian Development Bank had been set up as an instrument for financing joint projects. The main macroeconomic indicators had improved in most of the Community's member States and trade in goods between members had doubled in 2005 to US$ 54 billion.

70. The Community was striving to improve the legal basis for cooperation. Partnerships had been set up with international organizations and other regional organizations, and multilateral projects in key sectors of the economy were being carried out. A free-trade regime without exemptions and limitations was in operation throughout the Community. A customs union had been set up between three member States: Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Other countries would join the customs union when they were ready to do so. The long-term goal was to establish an economic and monetary union.

71. Eighty-seven per cent of the Community's foreign trade turnover came from trade with third countries. As a result, high priority was being given to devising a common foreign trade policy at a conference to be convened jointly by the Community and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Moscow in October 2006. Preparations were being made for the Community's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Agreements signed within the Community already took account of WTO rules and standards. His organization fully supported the decisions of the 2005 World Summit and other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly designed to facilitate the accession of countries with economies in transition to WTO. Its members were fully prepared to accept commitments consonant with their level of development and the structure of their economies and comparable to the obligations assumed by other States members of WTO.

72. The States members of the Community were traditional suppliers of energy to many European and Asian countries. The Community was implementing some important investment projects with a view to creating a common electrical energy market and was constructing hydroelectric plants in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was of great assistance in that respect.

73. The Community was addressing a number of complex environmental problems in close cooperation

with the United Nations Development Programme. It supported initiatives by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe aimed at developing environmentally clean coal-burning technologies and reducing the harmful impact of energy production on the environment and hoped that that the Commission would help it to find solutions to several of the ecological problems faced by Central Asian countries, including the rehabilitation of uranium tailing dumps.

74. The Community had started to draw up a programme for the establishment of a common transport area in order to facilitate the movement of goods and in that connection it intended to work closely with the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). A common transport area would raise trade and economic cooperation between the Community's members to a qualitatively new level and would lend powerful momentum to further integration with other Eurasian countries. The building of a high-speed railway link for container transport on the routes from Urumqi to Brest and Moscow would increase the potential for transit traffic through the Community's member States. It was to be hoped that a number of proposals which the Community had submitted to the United Nations in its report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action would be reflected in the Organization's activities in the region.

75. The Community had adopted a package of agreements in the social sphere and on migration with the aim of reducing poverty, generating employment and achieving sustainable development. It had put forward some proposals regarding the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Economic Commission for Europe along the lines of that which it had signed with the United Nations Development Programme on the strengthening of institutional cooperation. He was pleased to note that the United Nations was seriously studying the situation in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had outlined ways of enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations activities in that region; however, key areas of such activities should be congruent with the Community's priorities in the fields of energy, water management, the environment, transport and trade.

76. Given that external debt was an increasingly acute problem for many Central Asian countries, new loans should be provided on preferential terms and old debts should be rescheduled.

77. The Community was ready not only to strengthen its contacts with all the main bodies of the United Nations system in the areas he had already mentioned, but also to seek new forms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.